

5 January 1987
MBK-7001

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau -- December 1986

I. GENERAL

A. The big event during the month was the long-awaited Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam held 15-18 December in Hanoi. There had been a great deal of interest and speculation about the congress because of the massive problems in the country; friction with Vietnam's patron, the Soviet Union; differences within the party; and the rumored changes anticipated within the top party ranks. The Bureau went all out to cover the congress and provide the important material as quickly as possible with the resources at our disposal. On the third day of the congress, it was finally reported that three of the old guard -- party leader Truong Chinh, Pham Van Dong, and Le Duc Tho -- would not stand for reelection to the party Central Committee. Instead, they were to become "advisors" to the party. At the final session Nguyen Van Linh was announced as the new party general secretary, and it now remains to be seen if he can reverse the fortunes of the party and the country.

The opening and closing sessions of the congress were monitored via ROSET and some very nice footage of the events was obtained. The videotapes were sent by express courier service to MOD, with the opening session tapes apparently arriving at Headquarters before the congress had concluded. In addition, the current arrangements for obtaining the newspapers worked well, and the Bureau was able to provide some relatively timely comparisons, at least for the period covering the first three days of the congress.

B. The 901,920 publishable words filed during December easily broke the previous record for a single month set back in March 1985. In fact, 1986 as a whole saw over 400,000 more publishable words filed than in 1985 -- the next highest year. The Vietnamese Unit with more than 200,000 words filed from the radio alone in December virtually ensured a record month. This unit's workload has been relatively high this whole year due to the reporting that preceded the congress.

Although a record wordage was filed, the Bureau never experienced a teletype backlog. The expanded use of the computer by monitors and editors in recent months has raised significantly the amount of material that does not have to be rekeyed. Some 51 percent of the publishable wordage for December, or around 460,000 words, was processed using PCs. Of the 1,625 publishable items filed, 735 were done on PCs. When the publishable and nonpublishable items were added together, it was found that 40 percent of all outgoing items had been done on a PC. The benefits of only partial modernization have already been considerable. ✓

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The Vietnamese party congress from 15-18 December required changes in monitorial staffing as well as a certain amount of overtime to permit rapid filing of important material. In particular, the bureau staffed heavily to cover and process material from the live coverage of the opening and closing congress sessions. Late on the evening of the 15th, London Bureau passed on thanks from the BBC Newsroom for the Bureau's "excellent, timely FYIs" with which they were "very pleased." Again on the 18th a message was received from London to note that at the morning meeting the BBC "heaped praise" on the bureau for the prompt handling of a heavy volume of congress materials which enabled the BBC to put out a large supplement in good time for their consumers.

The Bureau positioned the ROSET operations dish permanently on the 80 east Soviet satellite from 11-31 December to cover anything dealing with the CPV congress and the Vietnamese National Assembly session that followed. Videotapes of the opening and closing congress sessions were sent to Headquarters by express courier service. In addition, a number of television feeds dealing with the activities of various delegations were also recorded, VSLs were prepared, and the tapes mailed to MOD. No coverage of the National Assembly meetings was observed, however.

The Bureau accepted Okinawa's offer to make their Vietnamese monitor available to help with a limited amount of processing during the congress. A number of items were assigned him which helped the Bureau concentrate on priority congress processing.

2. Violence in India and Pakistan was widespread during the month. On 1 December, the Bureau put Delhi radio on open watch for several hours until a statement by the Indian prime minister on measures he was expected to announce with regard to the Punjab was monitored. Some of the worst rioting Karachi has seen took place during the month, with the Bureau filing quite a few high precedence reports. On the 16th, the Bureau received a message of thanks from the BBC Newsroom for the "timely, comprehensive coverage of the violence in Karachi."

3. At the request of Liaison the Bureau made an extensive search in the Indian media for an item attributed to Leonid Abalkin, reportedly a member of the Gorbachev entourage during his November trip to India. The search proved negative.

4. During the evening shift on the 11th, the Bureau was evacuated for about 20 minutes when the fire alarm went off. Fortunately, it turned out to be a short circuit in the building fire alarm system and not the real thing.

5. PRC Vice Foreign Minister Liu Shuqing made a 5-day visit to Laos during the latter part of the month in the first visit at that level in a number of years.

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B. Communications

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On 11 December, [] moved the Bureau's communications circuit [] at their end. The change was made quickly and only resulted in the Bureau altering our transmission indicator from "ESA" to "ETA."

C. Lateral Services

1. The American Consulate in Songkhla, Thailand requested three items during the month.

2. BBC requested 1 item during December.

D. Technical

1. New brakes were installed on the elevation drives of both ROSET antennas.

2. Contract approval was received from Headquarters to complete the resurfacing of the basement floor at Bang Ping, thereby doubling our usable storage space. Work will begin 5 January 1987.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

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1. [] married [] on 20 December in Okinawa. We all extend them our congratulations and very best wishes.

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2. Editorial Trainee [] departed on 23 December after completing her 3-month field editorial training.

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3. [] and family left 21 December for R & R in the States. He is planning to return on 11 January.

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IV. VISITS

A. Sgt Hedges, the new NCOIC of the Marine Detachment, visited the Bureau for a briefing and tour on 4 December.

B. [] Okinawa Bureau staff technician, visited the Bureau on 17 December while on private travel.

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Chief, Bangkok Bureau

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Attachment: Monthly Production Report

BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	901,920
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	297,510
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,625

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	20,825 min.	29,310 min.	265.00 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ROSET SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

INDIA

Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi	400
Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English	1,800

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay	1,550
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VIETNAM

Hanoi Television Feed in Vietnamese to Ho Chi Minh City	1,430
Hanoi VNA in English	19,930

IV. OUTPUT FROM ALL OTHER SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	25,050
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BANGLADESH

Dhaka Domestic Service in English	3,600
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English	990
Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali	760

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>BRUNEI</u>			
Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English			1,820
<u>BURMA</u>			
Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	8,010		
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English			330
<u>CAMBODIA</u>			
Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	33,920		
Phnom Penh SPK in English		19,280	
Phnom Penh SPK in French		4,400	
<u>CHINA</u>			
Beijing International Service in Lao	2,400		
Beijing in Cambodian to Cambodia	2,220		
Beijing in Hindi to India	1,170		
<u>CLANDESTINE</u>			
(Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in English	1,080		
(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	16,680		
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	2,020		
(Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian	7,150		
(Clandestine) Voice of the National Army Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	10,560		
(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma in Burmese	4,530		
(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Malaysia in Malay	4,050		
(Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil	5,410		
<u>HONG KONG</u>			
Hong Kong AFP in English		38,540	

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>INDIA</u>			
Delhi General Overseas Service in English	7,400		
Delhi Domestic Service in English	47,380		
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English		2,310	
Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English			1,270
Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English			300
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English			4,660
Delhi PATRIOT in English			5,060
Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English			1,200
Madras THE HINDU in English			4,830
<u>INDONESIA</u>			
Jakarta International Service in English	1,850		
Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	5,000		
Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English			4,180
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English			420
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian			740
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian			1,770
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian			50
Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian			1,010
<u>LAOS</u>			
Vientiane Domestic Service in Laos	34,000		
Vientiane KPL in English		23,910	
Vientiane PASASON in Lao			81,600
<u>MALAYSIA</u>			
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	4,040		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English	4,030		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	2,270		

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>MALAYSIA (continued)</u>			
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English			370
Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay			690
<u>NEPAL</u>			
Katmandu External Service in English	380		
Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English			250
<u>PAKISTAN</u>			
Karachi Overseas Service in English	2,550		
Karachi Domestic Service in English	16,010		
Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	20,510		
Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English			5,850
Karachi DAWN in English			2,910
Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English			6,520
<u>SINGAPORE</u>			
Singapore Domestic Service in English	4,760		
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English			2,180
<u>SRI LANKA</u>			
Colombo International Service in English	6,430		
Colombo Domestic Service in English	720		
<u>THAILAND</u>			
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	3,620		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	8,390		
Bangkok Domestic Service in English	2,340		
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	3,380		
Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai	4,960		
Bangkok Television Service in Thai	4,360		

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>THAILAND (continued)</u>			
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English			29,420
Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English			8,690
Bangkok THE NATION in English			26,900
Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai			620
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai			1,800
Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai			1,140
Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai			590
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai			4,050
Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai			1,940
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai			1,940
Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese			240
Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO in Chinese			1,020
<u>UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS</u>			
Moscow in Burmese to Burma	1,060		
Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia	540		
Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia	410		
<u>UNITED KINGDOM</u>			
London BBC World Service in English	520		
<u>VIETNAM</u>			
Hanoi International Service in English	10,690		
Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese	201,180		
Hanoi VNA in English		15,130	
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			30,610
Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			1,000
Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese			3,490
Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			3,400